

Specific Background to this Consultancy

HIV poses a great threat to global security causing setbacks in military strength particularly in developing countries and destabilizing entire nations. The spread of the disease among African militaries has endangered lives and affected state stability and also the capacity to get involved with regional peace keeping. As military forces are among the most mobile populations in the world, they can easily become a vector for the spread of HIV either in the region where they are deployed and back home once the mission is completed. Liberia has a youthful population with approximately 44% under the age of 14 years and 54% between 15-65 years of age. This puts the Armed Forces of Liberia at high risk due to its youthful service members. The (2013, 2014) Demography and Health Survey reported an HIV prevalence of 1.9%. A high rise in HIV and AIDS among the military population could undermine its overall mission preparedness and, thus, increase the risk of security. Factors that are occupational, social and economic make them more vulnerable. With such a wide range of specific and changing HIV and AIDS situations, an effective response requires approaches that take into account the dynamics of HIV and the complex cultural, political and socioeconomic determinants that underpin its spread and influence the consequences.

STRATEGY

In this context, the Ministry of National Defense (MOD) through the Office of Security Cooperation (OSC), U.S. Embassy and other partners, plan to initiate the process of developing an HIV and AIDS Policy for the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL). The team of consultants (an international and a national) will report to Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (DHAPP) Program Manager in Monrovia and work closely with the committee constituted by the MOD and DHAPP/OSC. The UNAIDS, USAID, NACP, NAC and UNMIL may be requested to provide technical guidance during all the process. Funding will be by DHAPP.

PURPOSE

The terms of reference (TOR) aim at guiding the services of consultant/consultants in order to undertake the below mentioned tasks. The team of consultants will facilitate and assist the MOD and DHAPP/OSC in developing this HIV and AIDS Policy.

Specific Activities for the team of consultants will include:

- a. Review of the current government HIV and AIDS Draft Policy and other relevant documents.
- b. Meet with key partners from government, multilateral agencies, donors and civil society groups including organizations of PLWHIV to assess HIV and AIDS situation in Liberia.
- c. Formulate a detailed action plan for development of the AFL HIV and AIDS Policy.
- d. Develop an AFL HIV and AIDS draft Policy

e. Organize and facilitate a stakeholders' meeting including Government, UN agencies, Civil Society Organizations and People Living with HIV/AIDS to validate and endorse the draft policy.

Location: The Consultant will be based in Monrovia but field travel outside Monrovia may be required.

Timeframe: The total time frame of this consultancy will be a maximum of 30 work days for field work, policy drafting and validation.

Costs: Consultancy fees will be paid in US\$. In addition to this remuneration, the consultants will be entitled to per diem including transportation cost where applicable, as per US Embassy policy.

Experience and Skills required for both international and national consultants (TOR)

- Post-graduate degree in public health/social sciences and related fields;
- At least 5 years experience in the area of HIV and AIDS as a development issue;
- Relevant background in the field and practical experience in developing National HIV and AIDS Policy and Strategic Plan, preferably in any African country
- Excellent analytical and communication skills.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.
- Familiarity with the workings of the military is an added advantage.

Specific requirements for the consultancy:

- A proposal tailored to suit the target group (military), taking into consideration the culture, social and traditional way of life of the Liberian people; must be gender sensitive.
- Proposal must have a multi-sectoral approach.
- Conform to Liberia's National AIDS Commission Strategic Framework and related policies and WHO guidelines for the provision of treatment, care and support for PLWHIV.

How to apply

Applications:

Interested experts should submit an application (including recent CV, three references, preferably from previous consultancies) to Office of Security Cooperation, US Embassy, Mamba Point, Monrovia.

If applying from outside –Office of Security Cooperation 8800 Monrovia Place, Washington DC 20521-8800

Email: sankohmd@state.gov; polaseksx@state.sgov.gov

Closing date: April 3, 2015